REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present patent application are numbered 1-27. The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated February 9, 2004 have been carefully considered by the Applicants. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the remaining claims.

Specification Objections

The third amendment to the specification in the Response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2003 has been amended to refer to the proper line and page number of the replacement paragraph.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 1-2, 10-13, 16-19, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Vong et al. (U.S. Patent no. 6,209,011). Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully contends that the cited reference neither teaches nor suggests the presently claimed invention.

Independent Claims 1 and 18

Independent Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Vong et al.

Independent Claims 1 and 18 each recite, in part:

> [A] method of notification comprising the steps
> of:
> receiving a first attention request from a
> first application that is associated with a first
> record entry <u>when said first record entry requires</u>
> <u>attention from a user</u>;
> automatically storing said first attention
> request in a memory <u>when said first record entry</u>
> <u>requires attention from said user</u>;
> automatically sending a first request for
> information to said first application <u>when said</u>
> <u>first record entry requires attention from said</u>
> <u>user</u>, said information associated with said first
> record entry;
> creating a notification dialog for displaying
> said information, wherein said first application
> fills in said information in said notification
> dialog <u>when said first record entry requires</u>
> <u>attention from said user</u> . . . (Emphasis Added)

Embodiments of the present invention, as claimed in

independent Claims 1 and 18 disclose a method of

notification, wherein a notification dialog is created for

displaying information that is associated with a first record

entry that is triggering an attention request. In

particular, the operations in the method of independent

Claims 1 and 18 are taken when the first record entry

requires attention from a user. Additionally, the

notification dialog is jointly created by the first

application that is associated with the first record entry.

On the other hand, the Vong et al. reference is directed
to a notification system on a handheld device that is used
both for the scheduling of notifications and for notifying a
user of a notification at a specified time. In particular,
the notification system in the Vong et al. reference is used
prior to the specified time of a notification to store and
schedule the notification with regards to other notification
that are managed by the notification system. That is, the
notification system in the Vong et al. reference is used to
schedule the various notifications within a device.

> The notification manager 68 stores the scheduled
> notification and examines it in light of any other
> scheduled user notifications to determine which
> notification is associated with the next
> chronological event to occur. Suppose that the
> calendar notification is next to occur. The
> notification manager 68 then calls the alarm
> manager 82, which in turn sets a hardware alarm for
> 8:00AM in real-time clock 84. The user can then
> exit the application 66 and turn off the device.
> (See Vong et al. reference, col. 7, lines 24-31)

For instance, because the notifications are stored in
the Vong et al. reference prior to their specified time for
action (See "Peg_User_Notification structure at col. 6, lines
28-38 of the Vong et al. reference), the notification system
in the Vong et al. reference understands the order in which
notifications need to be acted upon before those
notifications are scheduled to occur. In addition, the

dialog text within the notification is also created and stored before the specified time of the notification. As a result, in the Vong et al. reference, the notification system prior to the specified time of notifications, schedules and manages the notifications.

In contrast, embodiments of the present invention, as claimed in independent Claims 1 and 18 disclose methods for notification, wherein an attention request associated with a record entry is sent to an attention manager at the time of the event, e.g., when the record entry requires attention. In addition, the attention request is stored into memory at that time, e.g., when the record entry requires attention. As a result, the attention request is received and stored at the time when the record entry requires attention as claimed in independent Claims 1 and 18, and not before the event is scheduled to occur as in the Vong et al. reference.

In addition, embodiments of the present invention, as claimed in independent Claims 1 and 18 disclose that a request for information is made when the record entry requires attention, and not before the event is scheduled to occur as in the Vong et al. reference. Moreover, the notification dialog is created by the application sending the attention request by filling in the information in the notification dialog when the first record entry requires attention from the user as disclosed in independent Claims 1

and 18. Requesting, creating and filling in the information when the record entry requires attention as described in independent Claims 1 and 18 of the present invention focuses the management of notifications at the time of the event, which is fundamentally different from managing the notification before the event is scheduled to occur as in the Vong et al. reference.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention provide for the management of attention requests of record entries when those record entries require attention as disclosed in independent Claims 1 and 18. Applicants respectfully submit that the Vong et al. reference does not show nor suggest embodiments of the method of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 overcomes the cited reference, and as such Claims 2-10 which depend on independent Claim 1 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 18 overcomes the cited reference, and as such, Claims 19-27 which depend on independent Claim 18 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Independent Claim 11

Independent Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C.
§102(e) as being anticipated by Vong et al. Independent
Claim 11 recites, in part:

> [A] method of notification comprising the steps
> of:
> a)   receiving a first attention request from a
> first application that is associated with a first
> record entry <u>when said first record entry requires</u>
> attention from a user;
> b)   automatically storing said first attention
> request in a memory <u>when said first record entry</u>
> <u>requires attention from said user</u>;
> c)   determining a plurality of outstanding
> attention requests wherein each are associated with
> a corresponding record entry and a corresponding
> application, each of said outstanding attention
> requests still requiring attention from said user,
> said plurality of outstanding attention requests
> including said first attention request;
> d)   automatically sending a first request for
> information to said first application, said
> information being associated with said first record
> entry <u>and is dependant on the number of outstanding</u>
> <u>attention requests being managed</u>;
> e)   creating a first notification dialog for
> displaying said information, wherein said first
> application generates and fills in said information
> in said notification dialog <u>when said first record</u>
> <u>entry requires attention from said user</u> . . .
> (Emphasis Added)

Embodiments of the present invention, as claimed in
independent Claim 11 disclose a method of notification,
wherein a notification dialog is created for displaying
information that is associated with a first record entry that
is triggering an attention request. In particular, the
method of independent Claim 11 is performed when the first

record entry requires attention from a user. Additionally, the information provided in the notification dialog is dependant on the number of outstanding attention requests being managed.

For analogous arguments set forth in independent Claims 1 and 18, embodiments of the present invention disclose the requesting, creating and filling in the information when the record entry requires attention as described in independent Claim 11. This focuses the management of notifications at the time of the event, which is fundamentally different from managing the notification before the event is scheduled to occur as in the Vong et al. reference.

Moreover, the Vong et al. reference discloses the creation and storing of the dialog box, including the "DialogText" prior to when the notification is specified or schedule to occur. That is, "[t]he 'DialogText' pointer specifies the text of the user notification dialog box" which is stored in the "Peg_User_Notification" structure prior to their specified time for action. (See "Peg_User_Notification structure at col. 6, lines 28-38 of the Vong et al. reference).

In contrast, embodiments of the present invention as disclosed in independent Claim 11 provide for the creation of the information when the record entry requires attention from

a user. Specifically, the information contained within the attention request is dependant on the number of outstanding attention request being managed. That is, specifically, if there is only one outstanding attention request, then the information can be detail oriented. Otherwise, when there are more two or more outstanding attention requests being managed, then the information is presented in less detail, or a list format. The number of outstanding attention requests being managed is determined at the time the record entry requires attention, as disclosed in independent Claim 11 of the present invention.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Vong et al. reference does not show nor suggest embodiments of the method of the present invention as recited in independent Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 11 overcomes the cited reference, and as such Claims 12-17 which depend on independent Claim 11 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 3-9, 14-15, and 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Vong et al. reference and further in view of Chari et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,416). Claims 3-9, 14-15, and 20-26

each depend on one of the independent Claims 1, 11, and 18,
which are in a condition for allowance given the arguments
set forth in the discussion directed to the 35 U.S.C. §102(e)
objection. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that
dependent Claims 3-9, 14-15, and 20-26, which each depend on
one of the now allowable independent Claims 1, 11, and 18 are
also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an
allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the facts and arguments presented herein,
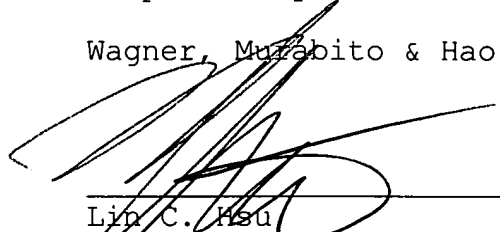Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the
rejected Claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants
respectfully assert that Claims 1-27 overcome the rejections
of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit
allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants'
undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such
action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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